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Memo

25X1A

25 Feb 48

To: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Subject The role of documents in intelligence, instances of,

The following is submitted in answer to your verbal request today.

25X1A

INSTANCES FROM THE EUROPEAN THEATER, RELATED BY [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] was engaged in an operation to gather intelligence on German military scientific research, in April and May, 1945.

A. From a Scrap of Paper . . .

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One of the first targets of [REDACTED] team was always the telephone exchange of any ~~German~~ German military agency, because of the known habit of operators of making notes from highly classified directories, which notes might be found even when the directories themselves were destroyed.

In such an exchange of the ~~Forschung~~ Forschungs Führung (Research Directorate) of the Luftwaffe [REDACTED] noticed a small scrap of paper in a pile of trash accumulated by GI's who ~~had cleaned out the place~~ had cleaned out the place. On examination it proved to be notes made by one of the operators listing all the top personnel of this agency, with their addresses and telephone numbers. Inquiries at these addresses and observation of personnel leaving them finally led to the village of ~~Aschbach~~ Aschbach and thence to an old mill building at Lauterbach Mühle, where the key personnel of this agency were found. The result was that it was possible gain custody of them for air technical interrogation.

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B. From a Discarded Fragment of a Letter . . .

(Story written by [REDACTED] attached.)

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(Air Research Institute)

While we were at the Luftfahrtforschungs Anstalt Hermann Goering at Braunschweig/Voelkenrode, we studied the German Air Force Scientific Research system, about which very little was known at the time (April 1945) because we had never caught prisoners who were knowledgeable, nor ^{found} documents of ^{a sufficiently} revealing nature, ^{found}. The information was urgently wanted so that the Air Technical Intelligence teams would know where the major targets for Scientific Air Intelligence ^(which had all moved at the last minute) could be found. We got to know the name of the ^{ZWB - the} Central Collection & Dissemination Section ("Zentrale fuer Wissenschaftliches Berichtswesen der Luftwaffe") but could get no better address, than GRAZ, which was in Silesia and in Russian hands at that time. About the third day we were there, while one of our team was looking for loot, (to put it frankly) he noticed a crumpled letter lying on the floor in one of the offices. ~~Excited~~^{Inspired} by some unknown force, he picked it up and ^{found} ~~noticed~~ that it was addressed to the ZWB at GREIZ, which is in Thuringia. The steno had thrown it ^{because of the} aside/~~for~~ typographical errors she had made, and so we found out the evacuation address of the most important single organ of German Air Research, i. e. the custodian of the finished ^{research reports,} ~~products of the research.~~

Following the trail to GREIZ, we uncovered the collection and in it found documents describing the secretary, a certain Herr Dominke. Herr D was rounded up late at night, after we had digested the contents of his "dossier" and was so shaken by our utter and complete knowledge of him that he broke down ~~completely~~ and gave us the ~~entire~~ entire roster of all the German Scientists doing Air Force Research, which he had hidden in his cellar.

He also ultimately led us to "Schloss Pullach", near Bad Aibling, where we were able to recover 150 boxes of German Scientific Research reports,

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which were the "meat" of German Air Force Air Research and which are

held at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, to this day, where they are undergoing intensive exploitation along with tons of other material gathered by the dozens of other teams in the Air Technical Intelligence Field.

Thus it might be said that the one crumpled mis-typed letter that the stenographer threw away in haste was pyramided into several tons of priceless documents and led to the apprehension of some 1500 top German Scientists.

NOTE: This is written from the "human interest" angle. In actual fact, if the crumpled paper had not been found, we would have gotten the results anyway, as the trails left crisscrossed every which way, and the Scientists were "volunteering" by the numbers....

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ANECDOTES FROM THE PACIFIC THEATER

A. The Bismarck Convoy Documents

probably ~~was~~ one of the greatest documents hauls in the Pacific was that following the destruction of the big Japanese convoy that set out for New ~~Guinea~~ Guinea with extensive air and surface fleet cover (with Palau as a jumping off place, ~~Indonesian~~, and en route for Wewak, I believe) in 1943. Survivors came ashore on Goodenough Island hugging brief cases containing the complete plans (and alternative plans) of the whole operation, listing the ships involved, the army units, and the detailed plans for the air cover. I cannot supply exact details, but there are reports which cover it well.

lay in

Their value ~~was~~ from the units identified and the information gained

on the Japanese military situation in New Guinea, ~~was~~ *and*

on the tactics employed by the Japanese in such a convoy, ~~was~~

~~was~~ ^B Maps of Camouflaged Enemy Supply Dumps

I remember a dramatic occasion (for me) when I went to a document panel in ATIS with captured maps of ~~the~~ the Japanese supply route from Bogadjim, on the north coast of New Guinea below Madang, to their troops fighting the Australians in the Finisterre Mountains, in the Ramu Valley campaign. This was a difficult route to maintain because of terrain and weather conditions, and supply dumps along the way were important. On the maps were indicated the positions of these dumps, with notes on their concealment.

There ensued a brief argument between Australian army officer as to whom should have priority, on the use of this info and the air officer on the panel. Said the former: "I can get this information to the Seventh (Aust.) Division in 24 hours." Said the latter: "I can have bombers up there in two hours." The latter ~~got~~ got the maps and their keyed translations.

I regret that I cannot report details on the results; I had too many more documents into which to stick my ~~maps~~ ^{maps} for any follow-up,

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even if it had been proper for me to make it.

C. Documents Aid Interrogation

Needless to say, close cooperation is required between the gaining of intelligence from documents and that from interrogation of prisoners. The former serves as a check on the latter, and opens up avenues of approach for the latter. The latter may supply supplementary information to facilitate the interpretation of documents.

On one occasion in ATIS a prisoner being interrogated proved to be very uncommunicative. He had given his name as--let us say--~~Shizuo~~ OKADA Shizuo. More than this he would not tell. At the time of his capture there was also picked up a complete roster of his section--a not particularly important item in itself. However, nowhere on it was the name "OKADA Shizuo" found.

In his next interrogation, the interrogator told him he was lying, gave him a solemn lecture on truthfulness, with the Japanese Imperial Rescript to the Armed Forces (another document) as his text, and then proceeded to tell him the names of all the men in his section. The prisoner broke down, felt that since we seemed to know everything anyway he might as well talk, and became quite helpful thereafter.

Not All Documents Aid Intelligence

Early in the fighting in New Guinea, when documents were relatively scarce, ~~and every~~ and every scrap of paper with Japanese on it was eagerly scanned, a weary language officer finally crawled into his sack at 11 o'clock after over twelve hours of interrogation and translation. He had just begun to dream of the Top o' the Mark in San Francisco when he was awakened to be informed that the colonel had a document he wanted translated immediately. Wearily he climbed open out of bed for a half mile jeep ride through the rain. Arrived at

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intelligence headquarters, he was shown a beautifully lettered

sign in Japanese which read: "Don't urinate here."

(I got this story at second-hand, ~~but I can't vouch for its accuracy~~
and count vouch for it's exact accuracy. However, I've had similar
experiences; this is just better than any of mine.)

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